



Magazine

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For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kenneth D. Kitts

bring almost 800 additional beds into the rotation for campus housing.

But we're not ready to pack up the cranes just yet. In early 2016, we anticipate bringing down Floyd Science Building so we can begin work on a new Nursing Building on that site. Funding for this project came together more quickly than we had anticipated through a combination of state support and two large gifts from private donors. These gifts are unprecedented in size for UNA. They speak to the commitment of key stakeholders in the UNA family and highlight the difference that philanthropy can make in the life of our university.

The new Nursing Building, coupled with the Science and Technology Building and new residence halls, will transform the appearance of the north end of campus. That's important since the beauty and harmony of our campus serve to set us apart in the crowded landscape of higher education. To underscore that point, as I write this message I can see Harrison Fountain across the plaza and hear Leo roaring next door. If there is a more enchanting entrance to a university campus, I haven't seen it.

As a new president, I am keenly aware of the legacy I have inherited. My predecessors had a vision, worked hard to implement it, and in the process grew an institution of unusual vitality and beauty. The responsibility of ensuring the continuing development of the university now falls to me and my leadership team. Fortunately, we have an outstanding network to guide and assist us in the form of our trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and fellow administrators.

Together, we are thinking creatively about the future of UNA and taking concrete steps that will move this university to the next level of excellence. Three major construction projects have been recently completed or are coming to fruition on campus. The new Science and Technology Building will open for classes this fall. With over 160,000 square feet of space, it stands as the largest capital construction project in the history of UNA. One new residence hall ("Mattielou") will also open this fall with a second ("Olive") set to open in the spring. These two new living facilities will

As alumni, you know the difference that this university has made in your own life. Many of you are now giving back to UNA—"paying it forward," as the saying goes—by sharing generously of your time, expertise, and resources so that future generations of students can have the same educational opportunity to live and study in this wonderful environment.

Dena and I have tried to get out and meet as many of you as possible during our first months here. We pledge to continue that effort. Through your character, community leadership, and career success, you stand as wonderful ambassadors for this institution. Prospective students need look no further than the ranks of our alumni to see the value of a UNA degree.

When I speak to community groups, I often make the point that great universities need a great story to tell—and UNA has a great story. We've been in the business of changing lives now for 185 years. That's a remarkable record. It's time that we trumpet our successes as never before and speak with conviction of the transformative difference UNA makes in educating students, supporting the Shoals region, and serving the state of Alabama. In short, it's our time to Roar!

Thank you for all you do in support of the University of North Alabama.

Ken Kitts, President



UNA CELEBRATES 185 YEARS AND A NEW PRESIDENT

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

If you will oblige, let's pretend we have a time machine. We've gotten in and pressed 1830 on the year. What will we find? Across the pond King George IV of England has died and William IV is ascending to the throne. Back in the States, it was the year American poet Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, and the year a man named Peter Cooper raced his locomotive, the Tom Thumb, against a horse. It was also the start of western expansion—William L. Sublette, with the goods from the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, took the first wagons along the Oregon Trail to the Rocky Mountains.

In rural northwestern Alabama, it was the year that started it all for the University of North Alabama and we haven't looked back since. The University of North Alabama, which was originally known as LaGrange College, began teaching students on January 11, 1830. While the name and location may have changed since that first year, the common goal of wanting to educate the masses has remained a constant.

The start of the fall semester marked the 185 anniversary for UNA and to celebrate that milestone the University hosted a series of events stretched over a three-day period culminating with the investiture of new President Dr. Kenneth Kitts. Many distinguished guests were on hand for the ceremony, including past University



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GOVERNOR BENTLEY PRAISES UNA'S NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Board of Trustees Approves Donor-Funded Equipment Purchase

By Bryan Rachal,
University Communications

Members of the University of North Alabama Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer (NMR), for use in UNA's new science and technology building. The board members met to approve the donor-funded equipment purchase and to also attend the "Montgomery Update" luncheon with Gov. Robert Bentley. Gov. Bentley also visited campus during his time in the Shoals and said he was impressed with the growth of UNA, and more specifically, the new science and technology building.

"The University of North Alabama is a strong educational asset to Alabama," Bentley said. "The new science and technology building on campus will provide a modern instructional setting that prepares students for the future in the most current scientific techniques. This building will be extremely beneficial to UNA and for science and technology in the state of Alabama."

Dr. Mitch Burford '51 funded the purchase of the NMR equipment. Marty Abrams '81, UNA Board of Trustees president, said he's amazed by the generosity of Dr. Burford. "Dr. Burford's significant investment in our new science and technology building and programs shows his incredible commitment to UNA and its students," he said. "We're also grateful that Gov. Bentley has recognized the significance of this building for our campus and the state."

NMR spectroscopy is a research technique that explores the magnetic properties of certain atomic nuclei. Use of this equipment is integral to the University's mission of teaching and research. NMR spectroscopy is used by chemists and biochemists to investigate the properties of organic molecules.

UNA STUDENTS SHARE THEIR FINDINGS AT RESEARCH DAY 2015

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*



Students at the University of North Alabama have once again completed another successful Research Day. Research Day gives students the opportunity to present their research either in poster format or orally and then to interact in a professional environment where they are encouraged to discuss their research, both formally and informally. This year's was slightly different from years past; it consisted of events spread across three days.

The new feature this year was the Department Research Symposium. Departments are now able to offer discipline-specific research symposia. The goal of the research symposia is to involve students in the disciplinary research process and research discussions with other student researchers and faculty

in a more relaxed, round-table discussion environment.

A new edition to the program last year, the Three-Minute Thesis competition, was back this year. The final round of the university-wide competition took place in Norton Auditorium. The Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) is an oral presentation competition that cultivates students' academic, presentation and research communication skills. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Each presentation is judged based on the content presented, as well as on the students' presentation skills and ability to explain their research appropriately in a very short amount of time.



UNA BASS TEAM LANDS TOP SPOT AGAIN

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

For the second consecutive year the University of North Alabama is Cabela's School of the Year. The UNA Bass Fishing team won the award once again beating out Murray State University and Tennessee Tech University to claim the most prestigious title in the sport of college fishing.

"Honestly, winning it two years in a row is an awesome experience," said UNA

Senior and Bass Team President Dawson Lenz. "We can't do it without our school. The school supports us and from that, we're able to travel and compete like we do. While we couldn't do it without our school, we also couldn't do it without the dedication from our team to compete day in and day out with the main goal of winning the Cabela's School of the Year Title," he said.



UNA'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES REELS IN SUPPORT WITH BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

Anglers battled for bragging rights and some serious cash prizes at the University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences' first ever Bass Fishing Tournament on Pickwick Lake.

While fishing is always fun, the prizes are usually the draw. The tournament's first place team took home \$500; second place received \$300; and \$100 went to the third place team. There was also a \$100 prize for the biggest fish and door prizes provided by the tournament's sponsors, Gander Mountain and Gray's Tackle shop.



CLE COURSE AT UNA PROVIDES NEEDED SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY

By Bryan Rachal,
University Communications

Attorneys from the surrounding area came to the University of North Alabama campus to participate in a continuing legal education course hosted by the Northwest Alabama Women's Legal Association, and UNA benefitted in the process.

Attorneys are required to take 12 hours of CLE courses each year in order to keep up with the changes in the law. What's unique about the CLE course held at UNA is that all the proceeds went to UNA's Mock Trial program. **Paula Bassham '88**, attorney and member of Northwest Alabama Women's Legal Association, said they're glad to donate the funds to UNA's Mock Trial program because it's one of the few in the area.

Bassham along with **Judge Angela Terry '94** and attorneys Laura Terry and Christy Graham are officers for the NAWLA. Bassham said the NAWLA plans on hosting a CLE course each year in order to provide support for the University's mock trial program. Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UNA, said that plan coincides with the mission of both UNA and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Law is a discipline in which continuing education is required and if UNA sees itself as a leader of education in this region, it only makes sense that we offer an event to allow attorneys to get continuing education hours. In addition, the NAWLA has graciously agreed to donate the proceeds to our mock trial program, which will further prepare students for graduate school or any aspect of life that gives them a solid foundation in critical thinking and critical questioning," Burkhalter said.

UNA's mock trial program has been an integral part of the Political Science and Legal Studies programs since 1998. Over the past 16 years, the UNA mock trial team has competed in more than 13 states at regional and national competitions, and won numerous awards.

The event will take place once again this year on November 6. It will cost \$100 for early registration or \$125 the day of. For more information contact Barbie Terry at bterry5@una.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA LIONS CLUB SEEKS CHARTER MEMBERS

By Barbie Terry, *University Advancement*

Anyone who has spent time on campus as a student or employee of the University of North Alabama has fond memories. With that in mind, a new UNA Lions Club was formed to enhance and provide that collegiate experience for everyone!

Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the UNA College of Arts and Sciences, arrived on campus with a vision that included students, faculty, and alumni working together to improve the quality of life on campus and in the community.

As she shared her mission of bringing students and faculty together outside the classroom to provide community service with alumnus **Jerome Thompson '83**, a collaboration of thoughts led to the idea that the UNA campus would be enhanced by the formation of a service organization. Thus, the UNA Lions Club was formed.

Thompson currently serves as membership chair for the Lions Clubs of Alabama. Working closely, with Barbie Terry, college development officer for UNA, Thompson and Terry secured a commitment from Lions Clubs International and permission from the UNA administration to form a club on campus.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization with 1.39 million members in 46,000 clubs in 210 countries and geographical regions. Formed in 1917, Lions Clubs International (LCI) has developed a strong reputation for community service. Although each club services its community in its own unique way, LCI encourages clubs to focus in four core areas – vision, youth, environment, and world hunger.

UNA's Lions Club membership consists of students, employees or alumni of UNA. Members have an opportunity to provide community service on campus and in the Shoals area. Service projects, which are determined by the membership, may include activities such as health fairs, vision screenings, youth leadership camps, tutoring, campus clean-up days, or food bank collections.

Students who join the UNA Lions Club will be able to include membership on their resumes, make a difference in the lives of others, and begin to network with professors and alumni. Membership in the Lions Club can also be continued beyond the university experience, by simply transferring to one of the 46,000 clubs around the world.



UNA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HOSTS ED MORRISON, 'STRATEGIC DOING' AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADER

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama and the UNA College of Business hosted Ed Morrison, thought leader and preeminent expert on regional development and civic collaboration, in the Guillot University Center on campus. Morrison led an interactive talk on the topic of "Strategic Doing" and how it coincides with regional development.

"Strategic Doing," a process developed by Morrison, enables civic leaders to form collaborations quickly, guiding them toward measurable outcomes, and making adjustments along the way. The process is being used to

reinvent and revitalize many regions.

As the global economy continues to change at an unprecedented rate, collaboration between institutions and entities is pivotal in solving key public issues, like ensuring job security and economic success for area residents and families. The University of North Alabama is one of these institutions and spans a very broad region. The mission of the university includes being engaged in the economic well-being of the region. Therefore, UNA is committed to collaborative efforts that will result in solutions that assure the economic success

of this mutually shared region of north Alabama, northeast Mississippi and south Tennessee.

"Today's economic climate is changing faster and faster so it is important for the regional leaders to find collaborative agile strategies that address their opportunities for generating prosperity. The days of going it alone are past. I believe that 'Strategic Doing' provides a simple yet multifaceted process that allows engaged leaders the ability to move quickly to successful results," said Dr. Gregory Carnes, Dean of the College of Business.



LIONS ON SAFARI



UNA'S Chamber Choir returned May 17 from an eight-day trip to Italy. They shared their vocal talents in places such as The Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

"We were able to sing in fantastic spaces with hundreds of years of history in them made by the visionaries of their time," Director of Choral Activities Ian Loeppky said. "A small-time choir that has no business in Italy went and sang until our hearts were full."

Dr. Ryan Zayac,
associate professor of psychology

UNA MATH STUDENT RECEIVES TOP AWARD AT ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONFERENCE

By Bryan Rachal,
University Communications

A University of North Alabama student was the recipient of the top honor at a recent conference. Alex Edwards received the award for the most outstanding presentation in the paper competition for mathematics and physics at the Alabama Academy of Science Conference.

Students representing UNA's physics and math departments presented papers at the 92nd annual meeting, March 12 -13, 2015. Edwards is currently a member of UNA's Math/CS Undergraduate Research Team; his faculty mentor is Dr. Jessica Stovall.

Caleb Lane, Maisey Hunter, Matthew Morgan, Christian Bayens and Mary McDaniel presented their undergraduate research at the Academy conference as well. They are mentored by Brian Thompson, Mel Blake, and Paul Davison of the UNA Physics Department.

UNA STUDENTS PITCH INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO LOCAL INVESTORS

By Bryan Rachal,
University Communications

Thirty-five students representing all four colleges at the University of North Alabama participated in UNA's 3 Day Startup Feb. 27- March 1. The event, sponsored by Charleston Laboratories, Inc., was a learning-by-doing campus workshop that taught entrepreneurial skills to university students in an extreme hands-on environment. The idea was simple: start a company over the course of three days.

The six companies that were formed over the weekend presented to a panel of business leaders as the final part of the event. Each team gave a five-minute presentation followed by a short Q&A session. The teams each had the task of creating a company name, identifying a problem and presenting their solution to the problem. The teams were as follows:

- Smith Enterprises: A roofing and construction company that improves safety of roof inspections by using drones.
- IT Geex: An on-campus, college budget friendly, tech support business that provides 24/7 access to technical support in the form of real life assistance from peers.

- Recruit Group: A company that simplifies the hiring process combining custom testing with resume analysis to select potential applicants

3 DAY STARTUP
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
Presenting Sponsor:

Charleston



for the hiring process with the benefit of reduced time and increased success.

During the weekend, over 20 local business people and faculty attended as mentors to the student led companies. The students prepared an investment level pitch and presented to a panel of five industry leaders composed of Joel Anderson, Ryan Baker, Sherri Stout Boyle, Joe Fields and Ron Wicks.

Nationally 3 Day Startup has already conducted 132 events at 60 schools across five continents that launched 70 companies with over \$49 million of investment. The goal for 3 Day Startup is to kick start new student-run companies and build entrepreneurial capabilities in students and their university communities.





GETTING TO KNOW **UNA's** **NEW** **FIRST** **FAMILY**

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

It's a new day at UNA. There's excitement on campus as a new First Family has moved into the President's Home which adjoins Harrison Plaza.

Dr. Ken Kitts arrived on campus in March as UNA's 20th president and was followed shortly afterwards by his wife Dena and their two boys, Colin and Corbin. The family has already begun to establish strong ties both on and off campus, and the community, faculty, and staff are happy they're here.

You rarely see Dr. Kitts at an event without Dena and the boys, and that's the way they like it. You might call it a package deal for UNA. But



perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the Kitts family so far has been their approachability.

As we were interviewing for this story, Dena mentioned that their oldest, Colin, was involved in one of the summer camps on campus. "I had been taking him to Keller Hall every day and there was a student who was helping with registration. She recognized me and asked, 'Are you guys living in the house?' I said, 'Yes, we are.' She said, 'You know, I've never been in that house.' I invited her to come over and there was this silence and surprise among everyone listening." That night at 7 o'clock, the student and a friend knocked on the door, and they were treated to a tour of the house.

Ken Kitts was born in Waynesville, North Carolina, and lived there until he left for college at Appalachian State. His father was a dentist and his mother was a homemaker. "Waynesville is a small mountain community west of Asheville, right in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains close to Tennessee. It's a very beautiful area. My father is deceased, but my mother still lives there," he said. Kitts was the youngest of four children, including two sisters and a brother. His parents were from the Great Depression Era, and his dad was a World War II veteran, so hard work and a sense of pride in the community and country were themes in the Kitts household.

His high school years consisted of typical activities, most of which did not include playing sports. "I love sports as a spectator, but beyond Little League, I didn't play. I like to joke that I was small and deceptively slow. I love football. I grew up going to the Tennessee games because

Knoxville was close and my dad was an alumnus of UT." What Ken did do was play tuba in his high school's band. As he was just over 5 feet tall as a freshman, he said it was quite the sight to see.

After high school, Ken enrolled at Appalachian State University. He knew the school through family connections, but he also liked the fact that Boone, where ASU is located, embraced the university and took pride in its label as a college town. Even though Ken said he had always been interested in government, history and law, he started out as a business major. However, a class during his first semester changed that. "I had taken an American Government class as part of the general education program, and I just loved it. I thought, this is my passion and something I could study for a long time, so I declared political science as my major."

Ken completed his undergraduate degree and decided to stay on at Appalachian State to earn his masters. He was offered a graduate teaching assistantship, and at the ripe old age of 21 began teaching college courses. "It was a bit awkward," he said. "I was as young as some of the students I was teaching, and I was very nervous. But that was my first taste of college teaching, and I liked it."

After earning his masters, Ken was offered a full-time teaching position in South Carolina at Francis Marion University. It was supposed be a one year assignment, but it turned into a 23-year stay; it's also where he met his wife, Dena.

The older of two children, Dena Strickland Kitts was born in Columbia, South Carolina. After moving around a few times when

she was young, she and her family settled in Latta, South Carolina. In high school, Dena was on the cheerleading squad and was drum major for the marching band. She also played the flute and said she can still play a tune to this day. Her parents were career educators, and when she decided to head off to college, she chose Clemson first. "I began at Clemson, then got a little homesick, so I transferred to Francis Marion University where I earned a B.A. in English with minors in Spanish and history." While at FMU, she was also inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society.

After graduating, Dena began working in the Francis Marion Human Resources Department; it's also when she and Ken began dating. Ken and Dena married in 2001, and five years later Colin was born. Corbin arrived three and a half years later.

Dena decided to stay home and focus on raising the boys while

Ken was moving upward in the administrative ranks. Dena knew that he was a fast riser. "Being in HR, you can pinpoint administratively who the stars are, and I knew. He became department chair and then was honored as FMU's Distinguished Professor that same year." Two months after his 38th birthday, Ken was promoted to associate provost.

After eight years as associate provost, Ken left FMU in 2011 to become provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a regional university just across the South Carolina border. He stayed there until UNA came calling, and as most Shoals transplants know, it is a call that's hard to resist.

"I'm grateful to have had these wonderful professional opportunities at key points in my career," he said. Dena is quick to point out that Ken is very humble. "That's one quality I love about him. In truth, he's always



stood out."

As they prepared for the move to Alabama, Ken and Dena tried to ensure a smooth transition for their children. "It's hard to leave family; there's no question about it," he said. "I think the ages of our children help. If we had two teenagers, with all the social networks that come with that, it would have been more difficult. We talked openly with them about the move, and both have adapted to their new environment very well," Ken said.

"By the time the move occurred, we had already been here two or three times, and we had a certain acclimation to the area," Dena said. "Quite honestly, I thought it would be much more difficult. Everyone has been genuinely nice and supportive, and because of that, the transition has been seamless. It already feels like home," she said.

Now that the Kitts family has settled in, they are enjoying their

new home and being participants in campus life. The prominent location of the President's Home can present challenges when it comes to raising the children. The front lawn often becomes a playground. It's not unusual to walk through Harrison Plaza and see Ken, Dena, and the boys throwing football or playing a game of Frisbee. "You do sacrifice some privacy when you're in this public of a location. So far, it's been very manageable, though. The people that come up in the yard are just curious about this beautiful house. It's part of campus," Ken said.

As we wrapped up the interview, it was clear that the President and First Lady of UNA know how to balance their public roles with their private lives. They were extremely cordial, open, and down to earth. As if to reaffirm the observation, Dena shared a story that really brought it all together.

"We were hosting our first event in our new home, a luncheon for

special friends of the university. I was very nervous, trying to make sure everything looked pristine. In the final moments before our guests arrived, I walked into the foyer and happened to glance at the chandelier. Hanging from the crystals was one of the boy's socks," she said, laughing. "In that moment, it sort of made everything right again. This is who we are."



UNA CELEBRATES 185 YEARS AND A NEW PRESIDENT *"Our time to ROAR"*



UNA's Academic Convocation



Investiture Ceremony



UNA's Academic Convocation



Investiture Gala Reception



Investiture Ceremony



UNA @ 185



UNA @ 185



Investiture Gala Reception

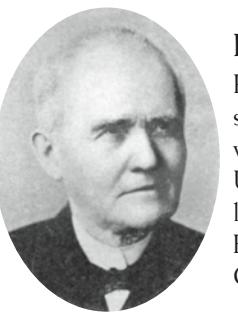
Presidents who made an impact

By Mari Williams, Student Intern



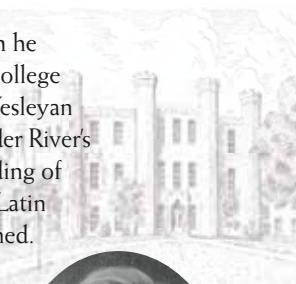
REVEREND ROBERT PAINE

The institution's first president was a North Carolina native, Reverend Robert Paine. He was a professor of Moral Science and Belle-Lettres, and also taught Geography and Mineralogy. When Paine left, the school saw a massive dip in enrollment and incoming funds.



RICHARD H. RIVERS

Richard H. Rivers was president from 1854-1855. Although he started his career under LaGrange College, soon after the college was relocated to Florence. The school was also renamed Wesleyan University, of which Rivers became the first president. Under Rivers leadership acceptance to the school required an understanding of English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, and Greek and Latin Grammar. When the Civil War began in 1861 Rivers resigned.



DR. SEPTIMUS P. RICE

Dr. Septimus P. Rice was the first president of the renamed State Normal School. He previously had been a professor when the school was still Wesleyan University and at one point he was the school's only instructor. He taught at the preparatory level as well as the college-level. President Rice resigned in 1881.



DR. JAMES KNOX POWERS

Dr. James Knox Powers was a State Normal School alumnus. Under Powers' leadership, the now State Normal College began their first summer school session and built the first female dormitory. Powers received the L.L.D. Degree in 1897 and went on to become president of the University of Alabama.



DR. HENRY J. WILLINGHAM

Dr. Henry J. Willingham was president from 1913-1938. During this time summer school first became an essential part of the academic year. To accommodate the increasing number of students, two new dorms were built: Florence Hall and Striplin Hall. Under Willingham the school became a four-year degree teachers college. Willingham became President Emeritus when he retired in 1938.



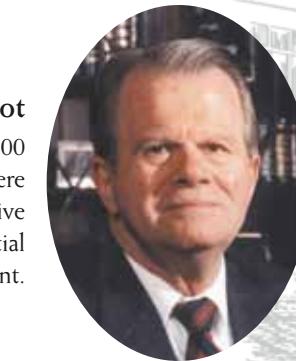
DR. JAMES ALBERT KELLER

Dr. James Albert Keller was the catalyst to the expansion of the college's curriculum. In just his second year Keller was able to offer students degrees in secondary education. Before the end of his time, seven new buildings were established.



Dr. Ethelbert B. Norton

Dr. Ethelbert B. Norton focused heavily on curriculum expansion as well. By 1952 the college offered degrees in 15 different fields. Some familiar structures that came to be under Norton are Lafayette and LaGrange Halls, the Planetarium, and Flowers Hall. Norton resigned in 1972 after 24 years as president.



Robert M. Guillot

Robert M. Guillot was able to bring the campus enrollment from 3,000 to 5,000 in just five years. Guillot heavily endorsed fraternities and in his time eight were established on campus. In his first year Guillot brought the university's first live mascot, Leo I, to live on campus. Guillot can also be thanked for much of the initial beautification of the campus. In 1984 Guillot retired after 17 years as president.



ROBERT L. POTTS

Under Robert Potts the University saw changes not only in the campus but the curriculum as well. The campus added more graduate programs and ignited interest in distance learning programs. By 2004 the international student body increased from only a handful to close to 300. The university underwent major landscape changes by adding the noteworthy Harrison Plaza fountain and entrance, numerous walkways and a new parking deck. Although Potts retired in 2004 it is safe to say he had a lasting effect on the campus.



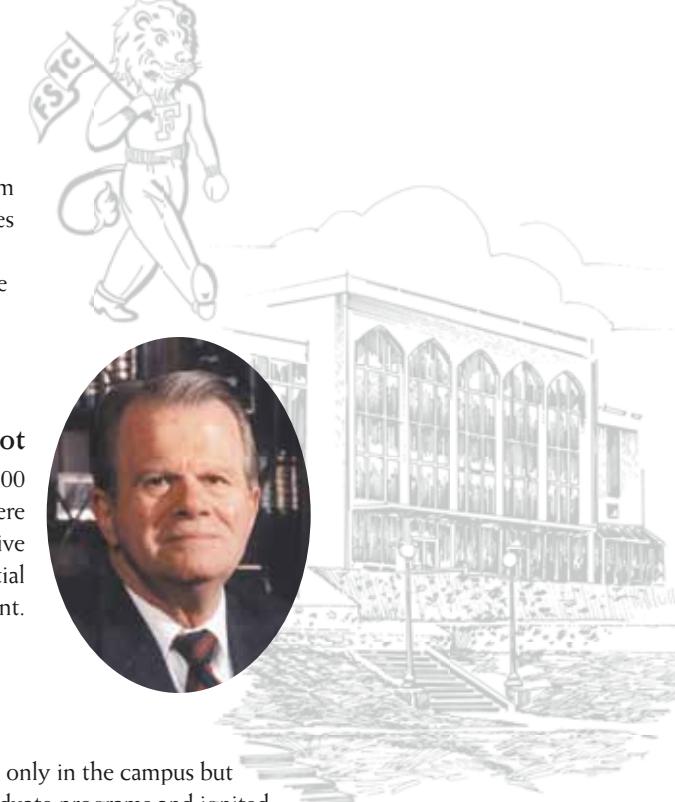
DR. WILLIAM G. CALE

William Cale served as president for more than nine years. Cale was inaugurated just a few days after UNA celebrated its 175th birthday. Under Cale's able wing UNA acquired several new bachelors and masters degree programs. Cale also oversaw major renovations of many buildings as well as the construction of several facilities, including the Student Commons Building, the George Lindsey Theatre, and the Science and Technology Building.



DR. KENNETH D. KITTS

Although Kenneth Kitts just arrived on campus he already has big plans for the university. Aside from spending time inside the classroom, Kitts also announced the university's next capital project: a new nursing building. With Kitts as president the future looks bright for the university.



DR. JIM F. COUCH OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH AWARD**Eric K. O'Neal**

Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, B.S.Ed., 2005, M.S., 2006, Arkansas State University; Ph.D., 2010, The University of Alabama

Dr. O'Neal joined UNA in 2010 upon completion of his doctoral program in Human Performance at the University of Alabama. After originally wanting to be a coach and spending four years of his undergraduate career working for the Arkansas State University football team, Dr. O'Neal's career pathway altered course when he was offered a graduate teaching assistantship. He was coaxed into completing a thesis and fell in love with academia for the first time after discovering what research really meant.

The quote below has stuck with Dr. O'Neal through the years. He believes his primary mission at UNA is to provide opportunities for success to students who are willing to work hard to better their lives through the academic process. He contends these are often not the students with the best grades in high school or highest ACT scores. Working with students whose desires focus on getting an education versus a diploma is what drives Dr. O'Neal. He feels that UNA is unique in that the student's academic experience is truly the number one priority creating an environment where mentoring student researchers to success is valued as much if not more than his own achievements.

While not a traditional sport coach, Dr. O'Neal considers the research mentoring aspect the favorite part of his job and very akin to his original



occupational passion, minus the whistle. His team is the UNA Human Performance Research Group (HPRG). The HPRG is a registered student organization Dr. O'Neal established four years ago and continues to sponsor. The group's primary focus is to help improve members' CVs through involvement in research and service with the Special Olympics. Dr. O'Neal has published 18 manuscripts in international level journals since his arrival and has around a dozen more manuscripts currently in review. The majority of these articles include UNA students as co-authors and many have student lead authors, for which he is most proud. Dr. O'Neal's primary research interests involve hydration and athletic performance.

The highlight of his academic year is when he gets to take HPRG members to the Southeastern American College of Sports Medicine Conference. In his

first year at UNA only two students attended. That number has increased to the mid 20s over the last three years and includes four students who have been nominated for research awards. This year 12 different presentations were given by UNA representatives. Probably the greatest testament to the HPRG is that a dozen past members have or are currently completing Ph.D. programs in the Exercise Science field. Most of these alumni continue to attend the conference and interact with current students creating a vast UNA HPRG family tree that continues to grow.

Dr. O'Neal's wife, Whitney O'Neal, recently accepted a tenure-track position in the UNA Music Department. When not in the lab, Dr. O'Neal spends his time fishing on the Tennessee River, running, or watching UNA athletics with Whitney and their son Cade.

"A leader doesn't treat everyone equally; he or she treats everyone fairly."

DR. LAWRENCE J. NELSON OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD**Matthew J. Fitzsimmons**

Associate Professor of Philosophy, B.A., 1998, Kentucky Wesleyan College; M.A., 2003, Ph.D., 2004, Vanderbilt University

Early on in Dr. Fitzsimmons' graduate education, he made a disquieting observation: not all approaches to philosophy are equal. And it appeared to him that his study up to that point had to a great degree emphasized the lesser of these. But a conversation with his graduate advisor, John Lachs, changed everything. Lachs said, "You want to know if philosophy can bake bread. The short answer to that is, 'Yes, it can.'" The discussion had a profound impact. Dr. Fitzsimmons recalls: "It was revelatory. It harkened back to the original call of philosophy to see past mere appearances, to understand how and why given realities are presented and interpreted in the ways that they are, and to illuminate the means by which these perceptions shape our moral agency. But it also prompted a focus on the struggles and conditions of the present with an emphasis on problem solving and an eye toward bettering future experience; in other words, promoting human flourishing. This led me to a serious study of American Pragmatism, particularly the thought of John Dewey, and helped to develop my interest in classical Greek thought as well as contemporary ethics and social/political philosophy."

This focus on philosophy's relevance to everyday life can be found in how Dr. Fitzsimmons approaches teaching. He emphasizes the study of philosophy



as much more than merely gaining familiarity with classic thinkers or traditional arguments. He said, "If philosophy was nothing more than the mere memorization of past ideas, it would be as dead as the pages on which it is written." Rather, he presents philosophy as life-engaging. His courses also highlight the importance of shared inquiry for mutual lived experiences. "I think it's more important to talk with students rather than to them; we cover a variety of controversial topics, and, in order to have a meaningful conversation, the classroom must allow for students to explore these ideas freely and openly," Dr. Fitzsimmons said.

Central to this teaching method is the cultivation of student interest. If students are genuinely interested in the topics covered, then they are likely to be motivated to explore these ideas in a deep and substantial fashion.

"So long as I live, I live in the light." —John Lachs, Centennial Professor of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Kerry P. Gatlin

Professor of Management; B.B.A., 1969, Southern State College; M.B.A., 1974, Samford University; Ph.D., 1982, University of Oklahoma

Dr. Kerry Gatlin is Professor of Management and former Dean of the College of Business at the University of North Alabama. Previously he served as Chair of the Department of Management and Marketing and as Director of the University's Small Business Development Center. He has served on the UNA faculty since 1980. Prior to his career in education, he served as Treasurer and Operations Officer for a Birmingham bank.

In addition to teaching and administrative work, Kerry has maintained an active professional agenda. He has conducted management-training classes for organizations throughout the Southeast. His research and training interests are in the areas of customer service, strategy, decision-making, experiential learning, as well as organization theory and organizational behavior.

Dr. Gatlin has been a member of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, having served a term on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Alabama and the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center, including serving a term as President of the Board for the SEC. He serves on the Alabama Technology Network's Advisory Board. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the local chapter of the Salvation



Army. He is past Vice Chairman of the Business and Economics section of the Alabama Academy of Science and served as President of the Alabama Association for Higher Education in Business. Most recently, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of ECM-Regional Care Hospital.

Under Dr. Gatlin's leadership as Dean of the UNA College of Business, many programs were implemented that continue to be an integral part of the college. In the Department of Economics and Finance, the TVA Investment Challenge class was begun, not only to allow students to study investment strategies, but to actually manage a substantial financial portfolio where UNA students frequently outperform professional investors and compare extremely well with investment teams from other universities. Students

studying management policy not only study decision making, they compete with teams around the world in making simulation decisions. The senior project classes in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems allow teams of students to work directly with area non-profit organizations in implementing improvements in their websites and/or information systems.

Dr. Gatlin enjoys working with students, first and foremost. He has always emphasized the importance of, and encouraged participation in, learning and service opportunities. His approach to working with students is most influenced by the Chinese Proverb, "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Thanks to the leadership of Dr. Kerry Gatlin, the UNA College of Business continues to reflect those ideals.

"To hear is to forget; to see is to remember; to do is to understand."

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVISING

Carolyn M. Barske

Assistant Professor of History; B.A. 2002, Sewanee: The University of the South; M.A. 2004, Northeastern University; Ph.D., 2011, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

At an early age Carrie Barske fell in love with the study of history. The daughter of two amateur historians, and the granddaughter of another lover of history and genealogy, it seemed almost inevitable that Dr. Barske would find the study of history fascinating. Her parents took her and her sister to historic sites and museums beginning at an early age, teaching them that the study of history was much more than a list of dates and names. Instead, history was made up of a rich collection of millions of people's stories. Dr. Barske's fate seemed sealed when in 7th grade she took her history textbook home for the summer so she could finish the book. "My mother would come upstairs to say goodnight to me and find me reading the textbook. I wanted to know what happened next. We never finished the books in school and I knew there were many more stories to learn."

This thirst for knowledge followed Dr. Barske through college and then onto graduate school. It was at Northeastern University that she discovered public history. "As far back as I could remember, my parents had taken me to places like Sturbridge Village and Colonial Williamsburg. And I always loved that you could see how history worked, how people actually lived." When she realized that there was actually a field of study that taught students how to work with communities on preserving



and interpreting their history, she was hooked. "I have always wanted to blend my love of history with helping people, and public history provided a perfect way to do that."

She also learned, however, that a love of history was not enough to become a successful public historian. Because of their unique relationship to communities, public historians are professionals, activists, administrators, mediators, and often tackle tough and painful subjects. Teaching students to navigate the complicated world of public history has been Dr. Barske's main goal since coming to UNA. She has pushed her students to develop their skills as historians, while also helping shape them as professionals.

Dr. Barske was born in Anchorage, Alaska, and grew up in an 18th century house in Connecticut. She is an avid horsewoman, and won a national title from the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association while she was a student at Sewanee. Dr. Barske has taught at UNA since the fall of 2012.

"It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies, they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it." -Jacob Bronowski

ELEANOR P. GAUNDER PHI KAPPA PHI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Lisa H. Clayton

Associate Professor of Elementary Education, B.S. Ed., 2000, M.A.Ed., 2002, University of North Alabama; Ed.S., 2003, Ed.D., 2005, Samford University

Lisa Clayton '00 & '02 has been an educator for 15 years. She began her career as a first grade teacher at Webster Elementary School in Muscle Shoals, Ala. It was there that her passion for impacting student learning grew. Lisa has been recognized as a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teacher. Only 2% of teachers in the nation have currently received this honor and certification.

Lisa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Elementary Education and in her position at UNA teaches courses in early childhood reading and language arts, elementary reading assessment, and early childhood math.

Lisa also supervises field experiences, clinics, and student interns. She enjoys collaborating with her colleagues in the College of Education and Human Sciences and the Kilby Laboratory School faculty and staff to provide exciting opportunities for preservice teachers in her courses.

Dr. Clayton's favorite aspect of teaching at the University of North Alabama is her students. She goes above and beyond to give her students opportunities to be successful. As a professor, her goal is to build a professional learning community in each of her courses. Her teaching style focuses on student engagement and providing real world experiences for students.

As a professor, Lisa continues to build partnerships with the local school systems. She developed the "PALs" (Progressing Academic Learners) program with the



principal and instructional coach at Weeden Elementary School. This program focuses on increasing reading fluency and comprehension with first grade students. She has been instrumental in providing Alabama Math, Science, and Technology (AMSTI) training and certification to preservice teachers which in turn makes them extremely marketable as they look for a position as a classroom teacher.

Lisa Clayton enjoys speaking at international, national, state, and local conferences on research-based best practices in literacy and mathematics. She was selected to serve on a Regional Planning Team for the Alabama State Department of Education. Lisa has developed the National

Board of Professional Teaching Standards candidate support professional development that is offered to classroom teachers in the UNA Inservice Region. She has served on numerous university and College of Education and Human Sciences committees. In addition to providing service to the university and the local schools, another passion of Lisa's is to mentor parents of children who are deaf or have hearing loss.

Lisa is married to Ryan Clayton and together they have three beautiful little girls. All three girls are following in Lisa's footsteps by attending the same elementary school as she did. Ella Marie attends Kilby Laboratory School. Isabella and Sophia attend the Kilby Child Development Center.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

SHOALS SYMPHONY at UNA

2015 - 2016 SEASON

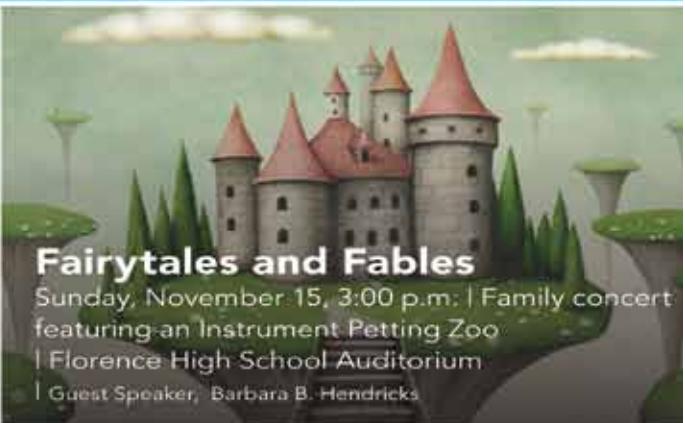
Tickets:
www.shoalsymphonyuna.edu
or (256) 765-5122

Tales from Vienna

Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m. | Music of Strauss and von Suppe | Guillet University Center Ballroom

**Fairytales and Fables**

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 p.m. | Family concert featuring an Instrument Petting Zoo | Florence High School Auditorium | Guest Speaker, Barbara B. Hendricks

**UNA Honor Orchestra**

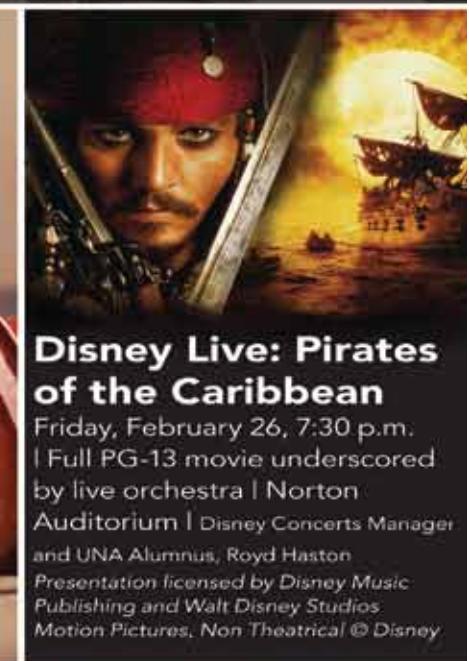
Saturday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.
| Side-by-side with the Shoals Symphony at UNA | Norton Auditorium

**Holiday Traditions**

Sunday, December 6, 3:00 p.m.
| Traditional Holiday Favorites with UNA choirs | Norton Auditorium | Guest Conductor, Ian Loeppky

**Disney Live: Pirates of the Caribbean**

Friday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.
| Full PG-13 movie underscored by live orchestra | Norton Auditorium | Disney Concerts Manager and UNA Alumnus, Royd Haston | Presentation licensed by Disney Music Publishing and Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. Non Theatrical © Disney

**Americana Spring**

Sunday, May 8, 3:00 p.m. | UNA Solo Artist Competition Winner | Norton Auditorium | Guest Speaker, John Sutherland

**Special Event:
Sangrias at Sunset**

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
| Daniel and Friends intimate parlor concert | Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts



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message from the ALUMNI PRESIDENT



Larry Softley, '89, and '08

I bring you greetings on behalf of the UNA Alumni Association. There are a lot of exciting things going on on campus and with the Alumni Board and Clubs. For example, the new UNA Science and Technology Building opening the fall of 2015 will offer students new classroom equipment and research opportunities. The new dorms (Matielou and Olive) also opening during the 2015-2016 school year bring a whole new excitement to Residence Hall living. (I am personally excited because my daughter will be moving into the dorms and is in the Freshman Class!) The planning stages are underway for the campaigns for the Music Performing Arts Center and the new Nursing Facility.

There are numerous activities ongoing with the Alumni Association and Clubs. The Madison/Huntsville, Greater Scottsboro, and Decatur/Morgan clubs have had excellent freshman send-off parties, and they have been a huge success. Engaging alumni with incoming freshman and Parents of the Pride promises building closer relationships with our constituents. The UNA Atlanta Alumni Club's recruitment efforts spread the message of UNA into Georgia and helped bring a new cohort from that state to us.

The Alumni Leadership Summit was a huge success: the Summit had a new component featuring our young Lions. The Alumni Association greatly appreciated the assistance of the UNA Cheerleaders with the Little Lions Day Camp Activities. The Alumni Executive Board and Alumni Club presidents have a quarterly conference call to discuss ongoing and upcoming activities in each of the Clubs and also the Alumni Association—one venture that we are very excited about is the Young Alumni Lion Leaders (Y'ALL). This group will communicate regularly via social media and will help bridge the gap between our students and our newly graduated (less than 10 years) alumni.

The Alumni Association has several upcoming activities:

- **SEPTEMBER 6** - Pre-game rally for the opening football game vs. Miles College at Legion Field
- **SEPTEMBER 18** - Lions Under the Lights - Farm-to-Table dinner featuring UNA Alumni Food Stylist **Jack White '78**
- **OCTOBER 17** - Homecoming - Numerous Reunions, Parade, Homecoming Banquet, Tent Parties, and Football Game

Please join and support the University and the Alumni Association. These are exciting times at UNA and there is something to do for everyone. We need your time, support, and resources to help the growth of our STUDENTS and our UNIVERSITY.

May God bless each of you, your families, and our University.

Sincerely,

Larry Softley, '89 and '08

UNA Alumni Association President 2014-2015

UNA's HOLLAND HAS GREEN THUMB AND A HEART FOR PHILANTHROPY

By Bryan Rachal, University Communications

The University of North Alabama's own **Cornelia Holland '62** is somewhat of an expert when it comes to hostas, and she should be since she's been collecting the plants since 1995.

Hostas are the number one shade perennial sold in the U.S.

Holland recently allowed personnel from the University of Tennessee to collect divisions of her personal garden which included both species and hybrid plants. The plants are now on display as



"The UT Garden provides a venue for the public to enjoy and learn about hostas, and it's also a living laboratory for UT faculty and students," Holland said.

Hosta is the botanical name of plants commonly known as hostas, plantain lilies (particularly in Britain) and occasionally giboshi (in Japan). The *Hosta* genus has around 45 different species and an estimated 5,000 different cultivars.

Tell 'em Where We're From

Y'ALL

Young Alumni Lion Leaders

Visit alumni.una.edu to learn more about Y'ALL and how to get involved!

Join us on October 17th for Homecoming & tailgate at the new Y'ALL tent on the Spirit Quad. Y'ALL will be carrying the field flag!

Remember to update your records & like our Facebook page to stay connected to other alumni & UNA.

f facebook.com/UNAYoungAlumni
(256) 765-4201 • alumni1@una.edu

YOUNG ALUMNI LION LEADERS

ALUMNI PRIDE



At Greater Huntsville/Madison Send-off at Intergraph in Huntsville
Wayne Parker, Jeremy Blackburn '01, Ken Kitts, Clinton Carter '00, and Brian Blakely '01



Leo with UNA freshman students



Amanda Terry '10, Jill Chambers '01 and Julie Taylor '06 & '10 with Leo



Leo with UNA Alumni President Larry Softley '89 & '08



Charles Winters '86 and Sybil Cleveland '84



Bishop Alexander '09 & '12 and Mason Kirkland '11

Frankly Speaking

By Ashley Gabaldon, Student Intern



A slice of bread topped with a piece of lettuce and a human mouth, a man with the head and hooves of a goat holding an egg with a smaller, winged goat/human hybrid bursting out, a pig reclining on a sofa; these are all early sculptures by Alabama artist **Frank Fleming '62**.



Looking at the body of Fleming's work you might not expect the artist to have a sunny and inviting disposition, but he certainly does. The 74-year-old Birmingham-based artist has a zest for life and a passion for his craft that comes out naturally through his works as well as his personality.

Fleming draws inspiration from mythology, but his greatest muse is nature. "I get inspiration from my upbringing. I was raised in nature with animals," he said. And

it's the process of combining the natural and mythological that makes Fleming's work so captivating and unique.

Critics and writers have tried repeatedly over the years to categorize Fleming's work with words such as whimsical, fantastical, humorous, surreal, and even dark, and Fleming for his part doesn't disagree with any of these descriptions.

"I would say all of those. At various times, on various pieces, on various bodies,



Brandon Sparkman '52
with Frank Fleming '62

all of those have come to the forefront. I might have done a show that was dark, or an exhibition that was light-hearted," he said.

Fleming may be better known on UNA's campus for his famous bronze statue of mascot Leo holding the Book of Knowledge. Fleming himself attended UNA when it was still known as Florence State College and the time he spent there played a huge role in his life. After earning his degree in art at UNA, Fleming worked for both Boeing and NASA for about six years before attending graduate school at the University of Alabama. "I didn't find a teaching job after getting an MFA, so I went in to producing my own work," he said.

But he cites his time at UNA as the most important and rewarding portion of his education. It was there that he took an art class that led him to abandon his biology major and find his passion in 3-dimensional creations made of clay and bronze.

"I started out drawing and painting, and once I started doing sculpture, I became more intrigued with 3D than 2D," he said.

Intrigued may not be quite the right word. It is estimated that Fleming has created between 8,000 and 10,000 unique sculptures in his career. And of this multitude it might not be surprising that he can't choose a favorite, and neither can fans. Fleming has had exhibits and shows across the country for the past half-century and his work appears in museums and private collections around the globe. Fleming most recently traveled to China in 2008 and Italy in 2009 to promote his work.

And though he remains humble about his impressive body of work and world-



renown, he admits that having people appreciate his work is vital. "It's about the most important aspect of it there is. The first is creating it, the next is having an audience," he said.

The most recent exhibit of his work can be found at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

The exhibit, titled "Between Fantasy and Reality," is a tribute to Fleming's early years as an artist. The museum has 18 original Fleming sculptures on display. The pieces are from the 1970s when clay and ceramic were his media of choice. The pieces were selected from private collections and were on public display at the museum from February 27 through August 9.

Fleming also worked with young artists and led a workshop at the museum this summer. The purpose of the program is to help develop young artists' skills. He says that he hopes he is an inspiration to them. And for any student attempting to chase their dreams he has a few words of advice. "Go. Go for it," he said.

But, as for his future, Fleming is already living the dream. He says that he is now lucky enough to work only when he wants to, which is "most every day," and he doesn't try too hard to make plans. "The future will come and take care of itself," he said.



Frank Fleming at Birmingham Museum of Art

By Christi Britten, '03

I first became acquainted with Frank Fleming's work as a child growing up in Birmingham, Ala., in the mid 80s. "The Storyteller" at the Five Points South intersection in the heart of Southside Birmingham was the first piece of art I ever heard my family talk about—the ram-man seated before a gathering of woodland animals reading a story to his eager audience.

I discovered more about Frank Fleming as an art student at UNA and learned more about his work. At the time, it was a short drive to a small boutique in Huntsville to purchase a bronze pear, leaf, or some other beautiful object of humility. If I could I would have filled my dorm room with all of them, so I photographed



Jeremy Britten, Frank Fleming '62 and Christi Britten '03

his name, and how he opened up a cohesive world of wonder in special spots throughout my hometown. When I visited UNA for the first time as a senior in high school, Fleming's sculpture of the lion was a peaceful omen of assurance.

My mother would take me to Birmingham Botanical Gardens to see his other works placed within bodies of water and among the plants. I knew



UNA's own Fleming bronze can be found at the Amphitheater in the heart of campus.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Satisfied. Now satiated.
Love once hungrily betrothed
Fills her gut with sleepy contentment.
Desire now delight.
Appetite, her only true companion.

—Christi (age 33), Florence, Alabama



them for a local magazine to convince people their lives would be happier having them strewn about on their coffee tables.

My heart was so excited to see Birmingham Museum of Art featuring Frank Fleming in a retrospective as part of the Bunting Biennial Ceramics

Symposium. The museum put out a call to writers on facebook asking for short stories and poems to complement his featured works. I chose my favorite, "The Alligator Lady."

It was an honor to get to meet Frank in person and confirm his gentle and whimsical nature.





FRANK FLEMING

AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM OF ART



Stuart Waddell '80, Melinda Sparks '79 and Cathy Miller '83



Eve Rhea '02



Frank Fleming '62 and Shirley Pugh '61



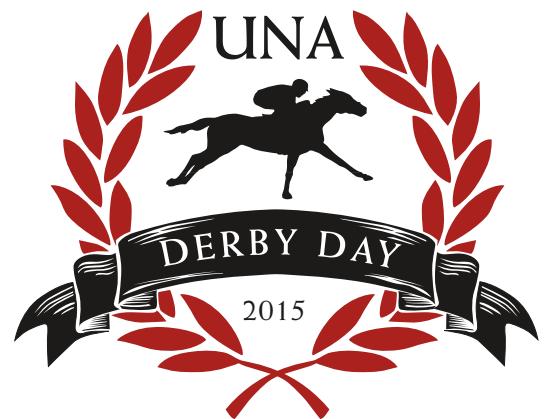
Jerry Thomas '61 and Frank Fleming '62



Robert Clem '60, John '65 and Ann Battcher '65, and JoAnne Clem



Kay Davis '73, Chris Burrell '02 and Johnnette Davis



UNA DERBY DAY

SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY



Ken & Dena Kitts



Joe Don & Jill Anderson (seated) with Doris Warhurst, Verna Brennan, Billy Don '62 and Liz Anderson



Susie Martin '81 & Susan Adams '80



Mary Armstrong '85, Tracey Marcu '92 and Maray Daniel



Weldon '60 & Delores Cole '58, Bill & BJ Cale



Molly Martin



Ryan & Holley Hamm



Mike & Carmen Burkhalter, Nita & John Thornell

Buddy in the Field

By Mari Williams, *Student Intern*

UNA HAS BEEN THE ALMA MATER of many noteworthy people and Colonel Buddy Brook is no exception. Aside from being a full-time Colonel, father, and husband, Brook has achieved great feats not only overseas but within the campus community as well. In October he will have served a combined 39 years in both active duty and the reserves.

Brook graduated from high school in the small town of Savanna, Okla. With only a handful of students in his class, on paper he would not have stood out. This did not stop him from joining the army and eventually finding his way to UNA's ROTC program.

During his time on campus Brook majored in history because he felt it went well with the military and helped him understand how people think. Because he was a full-time student with a full-time job, Brook was not able to participate in normal student activities, but this did not stop him from excelling within the ROTC program.

"I was in the Army Reserves, going to school, and I was employed with a company in the financial services field in a management training program. I didn't have the best grade point average. I didn't look like someone who would succeed in ROTC. They gave me an opportunity that other ROTC programs had not given me," he said. Brook had only been in the program a semester when he was appointed Cadet Sergeant Major.

"I wouldn't have had that opportunity had UNA not had a professor of Military Science that looked past the data and at the person. I would not be a Colonel today had it not been for UNA and LTC Rooker. I owe a lot of loyalty to the program."



When news broke that the ROTC program might be cut, the realization shook the Brook family. But once the community was assured the program would be spared, Brook and his wife Sharon began brainstorming ways to help the program.

"UNA is why I came to Florence – UNA is why I stayed in Florence," he said. "In the past, I had considered setting up a scholarship program at UNA in honor of my grandfather Sampson Benjamin, a Choctaw Indian who fought in WWI and my Grandmother Lura. They were my inspiration and motivation for the scholarship."

Col. Brook was successful in setting up the scholarship. Each year the American Military Legacy Scholarship is awarded to a prior service military student. In the event that there is no qualifier, the scholarship can be awarded to a police officer returning to school.

"A prior service soldier knows what they're getting into," he said. "We feel like we're getting someone who has already had the training, someone who has a start,

it's like someone who's had the desire for years and they know what it's all about. You get a good product there."

Sharon Brook has helped and supported her husband in his scholarship endeavors since the initial stages.

"He's very interested in young men and women that want to make a career out of the military," she said. "It's been a great life for us and he knows what the military can do in regards to leadership. Your career, your education, everything that revolves around it has so many advantages in a young person's life. It's just very special to him and he wanted to be able to give back to the community and UNA because of the opportunity it has afforded him over the years."

There is also another scholarship under the American Military Legacy Scholarship that will not be awarded until it is fully endowed at \$25,000. The Brook family is currently actively fundraising for this scholarship.

Creating the American Military Legacy Scholarship was not Buddy Brook's only accomplishment in recent

years. He tells the story of how he successfully created a payroll system for the entire Iraqi Army. In 2004 Brook volunteered to return to service after being in the reserves for many years. As a civilian in the reserves Brook worked in the finance industry and opened up his own insurance agency and mortgage brokering company.

When he arrived in Iraq he believed he would be training Iraqi soldiers, but his



commanders had a different plan for him.

"They said to me, 'Well, you heard that the Iraqi army hasn't been getting paid on time and they're walking off the job, not wanting to train, so we have to fix the payroll problem. These people have to get paid and we have to set up a system.'"

Although Brook had never created a government payroll system and did not know how, he wasted no time in preparing for the task.

"I was a little overwhelmed – not a little, a lot. I had a satellite phone so, the first thing I did was call my wife. You'd think you'd call your commander or something, but no, I called my wife. She said 'You'll figure it out, you'll get it.' So, that little bit of confidence helped a lot."

Brook looked for advice thousands of miles away from banks in Florence.

"I contacted Bank Independent and First Metro Bank and asked them if they could provide some information and key things you need to start a financial payroll system for (in this case) the ministry of defense of another country. The information they gave me allowed me to start implementing security and accountability. A boy from a small town in Oklahoma, who graduated with a class of 32, setting up a payroll system for the

Iraqi government, and using ideas from local banks. I would have never imagined that."

Even though Sharon Brook was on the other side of the world, she was still there to offer encouragement to her husband.

"He had built a financial career with a couple of businesses that we had locally so I knew he could do it," she said. "He's well-travelled and very knowledgeable about so many things. So I had a feeling with his financial experience—starting two businesses, running two businesses locally—that he could absolutely get that program up and running, and he did."

After establishing the payroll system for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, the United States turned the program over to Iraq, and Col. Brook returned to his position as the Detachment Commander and Senior Military Advisor for the Iraqi Army's 9th Infantry Brigade. He has since continued to work with foreign soldiers in



Sydney, Sharon and Buddy Brook '91

various capacities in several countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and as an Advisor to the Afghanistan Ministry of Defense's Religious and Culture Affairs Department.

Over the years Brook has been awarded many medals for his military service, and though he says all of them are great, the Combat Infantry Badge has been the one he is most proud of.

"It's awarded to infantry soldiers who have served in live fire combat and engaged with the enemy. I'm an infantryman and infantrymen have a special bond. Any soldier that's served with other soldiers has a bond. That bond is not related to race, gender, religion, or anything else—it's related to the common experience of serving together."

Brook will return from overseas in the fall just in time for his 20th wedding anniversary. He is looking forward to spending time with family and camping with his grandchildren.

The Lion, the Raccoon, and Pete Nelson

By Ashley Gabaldon, Student Writer

UNA Alumni **Pete Nelson '99** just may have landed the coolest job there is. Nelson formerly served as UNA mascot Leo the lion and has made a career of his hobby as the NFL mascot T-Rac. Nelson was the mascot for UNA from 1994 until he graduated with a degree in public communication, both of which have served him well as the furry face of the Tennessee Titans. "If it wasn't so hot and miserable, it would be the most fun job in the world," he joked.

Nelson was able to secure his role as T-Rac when the Houston Oilers became the Tennessee Titans in 1999. They chose the raccoon as their mascot because it is the state animal of Tennessee and as Nelson puts it, "a guy dressed as a guy isn't funny." Nelson is starting his 17th season with the Titans this fall and is responsible for coming up with new, more entertaining, and ever-more dangerous routines. He recalls an incident when he was asked to go on the field on faulty stilts. "I'd never been on stilts in my life!" he laughed, as he recalls the stilts beginning to wobble and the realization that he was about to hit the ground. Fans loved it so much that T-Rac falls off stilts a couple of times a year now. "How I've never ended up seriously injured as a mascot, I'll never know," he said with a laugh.



T-Rac with Sigma Chi brothers from UNA



"I do a lot of school visits through a partnership with the Tennessee State Parks, the number one State Park system in the nation. We go to schools and urge the children to take care of themselves and our parks. It's a huge production. We get to go to all these state parks for free. We are in our fifth year with them and the Titans' caravan."

Nelson knew he wanted to be a mascot after attending a UNA football game with his father while he was still in high school. He felt that he didn't have the brains for academics nor the brawn for athletics, but when he saw Leo on the field he knew he'd found his calling. Nelson attended UNA the next fall and his first football game as a student was also his first in the Leo costume. "In college it was really, really fun. It was fun to get in front of the students, fans, and my fraternity brothers and get a laugh, do something crazy," he recalled.

He remembers his time at UNA fondly thanks in large part to the constant support of his fraternity brothers in Sigma Chi. Nelson said that his brothers were always there to help him

pull off a skit, travel with him, and give him new ideas and advice. "There was no better time in my life than as the mascot of the University of North Alabama," Nelson recalls. His fraternity brothers have remained loyal friends and fans and even help him in his role as T-Rac.

But Nelson had an even more important support system in his family, who he believes are all more talented than he is. "My mom was a professional singer when she was younger, my father was a preacher and professor, and my sister went to LA to be an actress—she is more talented than all of us put together. The genes in my family are an odd, eccentric, entertainment kind," he said.

Nelson's biggest fan was his father, beloved UNA history professor Dr. Larry Nelson who passed away in 2014 from glioblastoma brain cancer. "My dad wasn't a teacher, he was a performer. He was more famous than I ever was, the most popular man in North Alabama," Nelson remembers. "When I lost him, that was tough."

Despite his impressive success and massive popularity Nelson remains humble.

He believes that each person has his or her own unique calling and he is just fulfilling his with the talent that he has been given. "Me standing in the middle of the field looking at 70,000 people, I thank the Lord. Thank you, Jesus, for this opportunity. What I get to see and do is pretty amazing for an idiot like myself," he said with a chuckle.



PETE NELSON'S RULES OF BEING A MASCOT

Golden Rule:

Don't be just another guy in a suit.

1. Big Movements – You're a person, but you're not, you're bigger than that.

2. Facial Expressions – Your body will follow what your face does.

3. Pure Energy – The most annoying thing in the world is an annoying mascot.

4. Have Fun – Give them a reason to cheer and they'll cheer. Own it and let people in on the joke.





Gulf South Conference Commissioner Matt Wilson with newest GSC Hall of Fame inductees Ronda Price Brinley '00 and Rachel Price Bell '00 (left).

UNA'S PRICE SISTERS

JOIN GSC HALL OF FAME
FOUR LIONS INDUCTED IN FIRST TWO YEARS

Former University of North Alabama volleyball All-Americans Rachel Price Bell and Ronda Price Brinley were inducted in June into the Gulf South Conference Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2015 at a ceremony at the San Destin Golf and Beach Resort..

In just its second year of existence, the GSC Hall of Fame added its latest class of five inductees with UNA's Price sisters as the only student-athletes honored. There were 10 inductees in the initial class in 2014 that included former UNA football standout Ronald McKinnon and former UNA basketball coach and athletic director, the late Bill Jones.

The GSC Hall of Fame is just the latest honor for the Price sisters. They were inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 and were chosen for the 40th Anniversary NCAA Division II Tribute Team in 2013 as the top female student-athletes from the Gulf South Conference over the 40 years that the league has competed in Division II.

The Price sisters were four-year starters on University of North Alabama volleyball teams from 1996-99 that had a combined 156-22 record. The Lions won four straight Gulf South Conference championships, made four straight NCAA

Division II Tournament appearances and won two NCAA regional championships.

Both Rachel and Ronda earned All-Gulf South Conference, All-South Region, All-American and Academic All-America® honors during their playing careers.

Rachel also won the Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy as the premier female student-athlete in the league in 1999 and 2000. She was also named NCAA Division II Conference Commissioner's Association National Female Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2000. She received an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and earned a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Purdue University. She is currently employed as a clinical project manager in West Lafayette, Ind.

Ronda was the recipient of the Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy in 1998 and was the Alabama Sports Writers Association State Small College Athlete of the Year in 1997. She was also awarded an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she also did her residency. She is employed as an anesthesiologist in Fort Wayne, Ind.

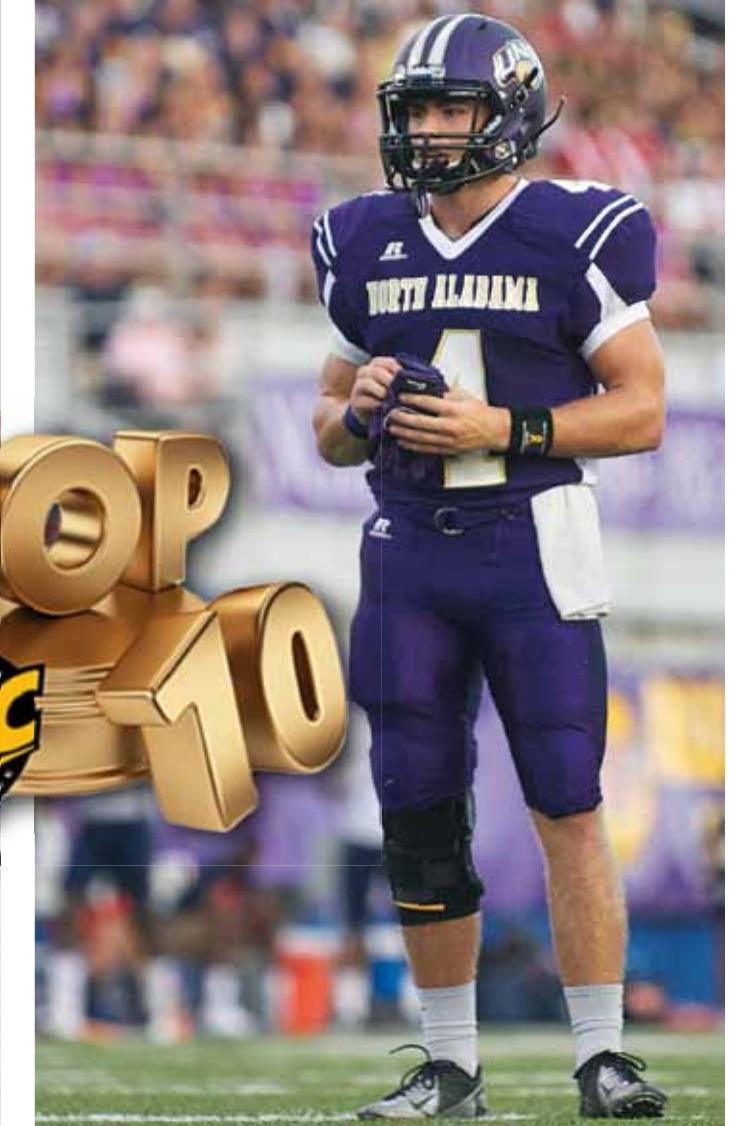


RICHARDS AND MAYHALL RECEIVE GSC TOP TEN AWARDS

University of North Alabama football receiver Lee Mayhall of Jackson, Tenn., and women's soccer forward Chloe Richards of Cornwall, England, were among the recipients of the 2015 Gulf South Conference "Top Ten" Awards.

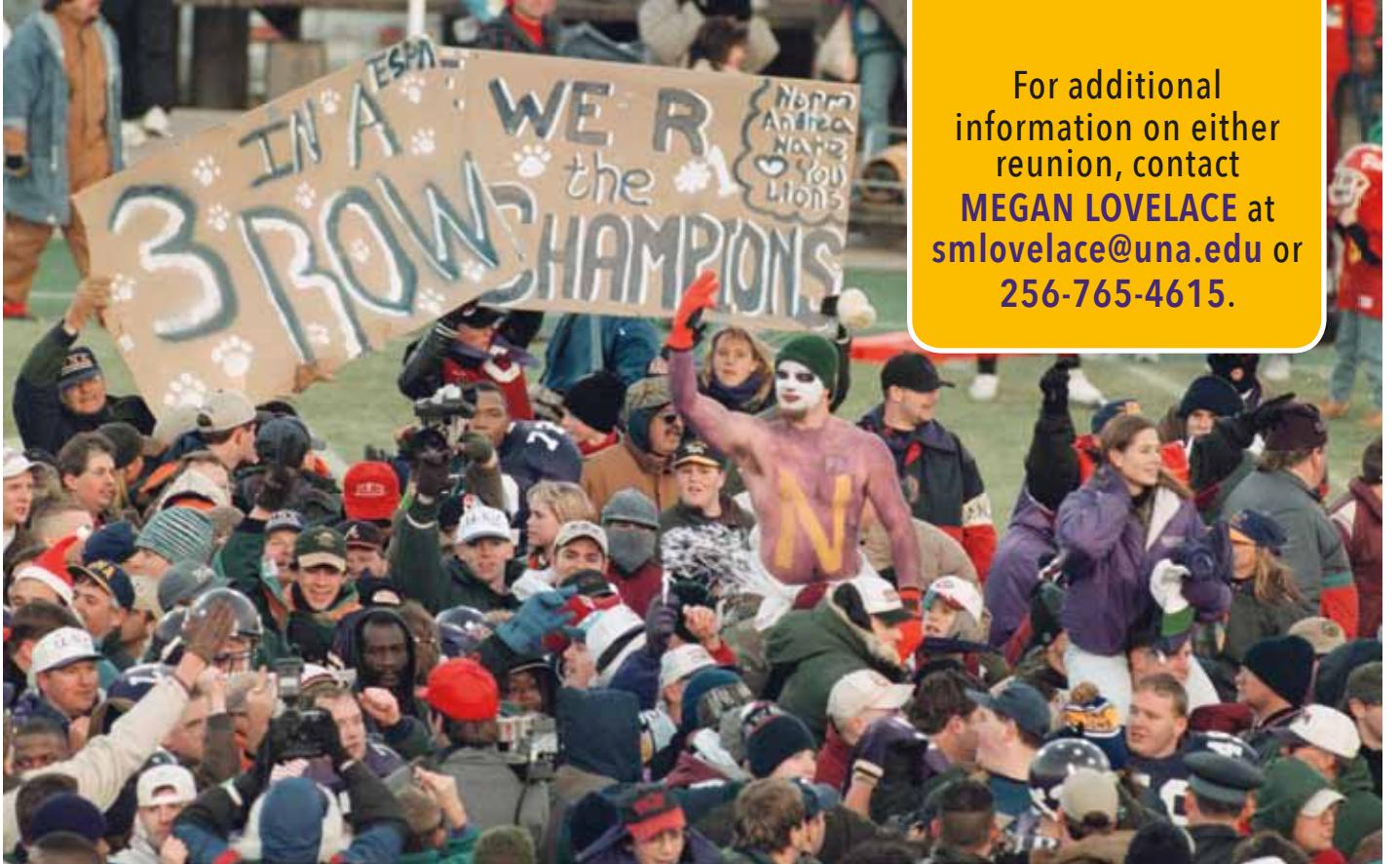
These awards, based on athletic, academic and extracurricular achievement during the 2014-15 academic year, recognize the top five male and top five female student-athletes as the cream of the GSC crop.

The "Top Ten" are selected with the assistance of an advisory committee representing the athletic directors, senior woman administrators, sports information directors, faculty athletic representatives and presidents from randomly selected GSC schools. This committee makes a recommendation to the commissioner, who makes the final decision.



Richards was the 2014 Daktronics Division II National Player of the Year and led the nation in four statistical categories while leading the Lions to a 14-4-1 record and a spot in the Division II National Tournament. She earned All-GSC and Academic All-GSC honors, was GSC Player of the Year and earned five GSC Player of the Week awards. She was also named South Region Player of the Year and was a first-team selection on two All-America teams.

Despite missing part of the 2014 season due to injury, Mayhall ranked among the Lions' leading receivers and earned All-GSC and Academic All-GSC honors. He was a first-team Academic All-America selection with a 4.00 cumulative GPA in Industrial Hygiene. Last season he helped lead UNA to a 9-2 overall record, a second straight GSC championship, and a spot in the NCAA Division II Playoffs.



For additional information on either reunion, contact **MEGAN LOVELACE** at smlovelace@una.edu or 256-765-4615.



20-YEAR REUNION OF 1995 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM NOVEMBER 14

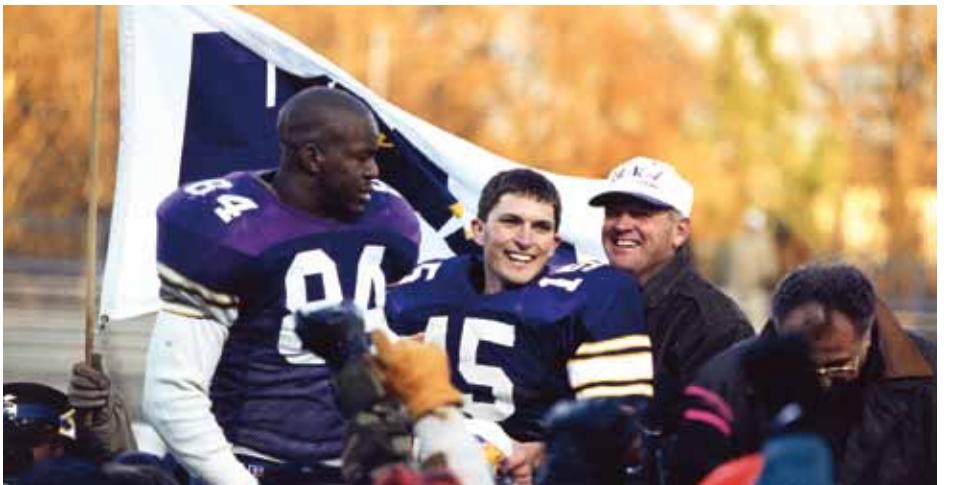


UNA will honor the coaches, players and staff members from its 1995 NCAA Division II Football National Championship team on November 14, 2015 at Braly Stadium at the Lions home game against West Alabama. The event will celebrate the 20-year

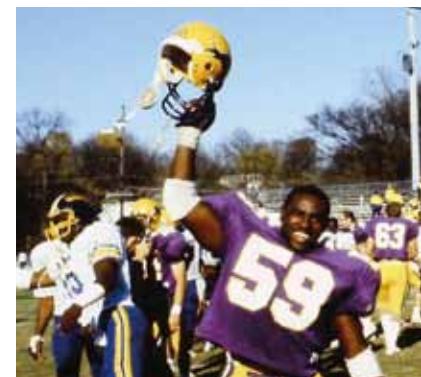
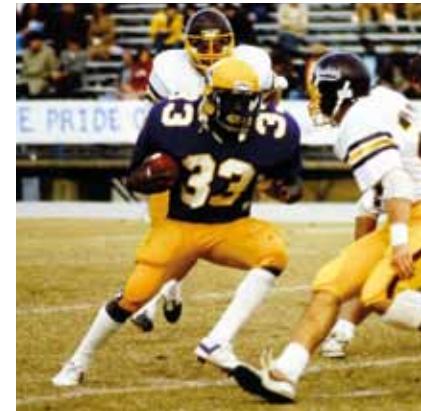


anniversary of UNA winning an unprecedented third consecutive NCAA Division II football title. The 1995 Lions completed a perfect 14-0 season with a 27-7 win over Pittsburg State in the national championship game at Braly Stadium.

Kickoff for the game is set for 1:30 p.m., with on-field recognition of the 1995 team at halftime.

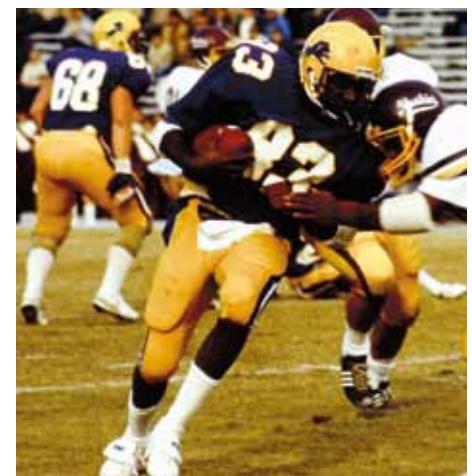


30-YEAR REUNION OF 1985 NATIONAL RUNNER-UP TEAM SEPTEMBER 12



The coaches, players, and staff members from UNA's 1985 football team that went 12-2 and advanced to the NCAA Division II Championship Game in McAllen, Texas, will be honored on September 12, 2015, at Braly Stadium at the Lions home game against Mississippi College. The event will celebrate the 30-year anniversary of UNA's first team to reach the Division II title game. The 1985 Lions won the Gulf South Conference Championship and defeated Fort Valley State and Bloomsburg in home playoff games before falling to North Dakota State in the national championship game.

Kickoff for the game is set for 6:00 p.m., with on-field recognition of the 1985 team during the game.





PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2015-16 CORPORATE PARTNERS

By patronizing our Corporate Partners, you positively impact the quality and success of the UNA Athletics Department. Our corporate partners need to see a return on their investment and know that we, the Lion Nation, spend our money in the Shoals. Below, we have listed our 2015-16 Corporate partners (as of July 17, 2015). Thanks for your support, and Roar Lions!

— Mark D. Linder, Athletics Director

SERVICES

All-State Signs
Anchor Tours
Bigbee Steel
Bohannon Services
Cintas
Constellium
Courier Journal
Courthouse Racquet Club
Cross Point Church of Christ
Dixie Signs
First Baptist Church Florence
First United Methodist Church Florence
Florence Utilities
Framing by Bonnie
Home Depot
Hunt's TV and Appliances
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North American Lighting
Oakley Equipment
Printers & Stationers, Inc. (PSI)
Robert Smith/ Attorney
Robert Trent Jones
Russell Athletic
SBS Electric
Shoals Distributing
Shoals MPE, LLC.
TimesDaily
TNT Fireworks
Total Nutrition
TVA
United Rentals
University Bookstore
Weichert Realtors
WHDF Ch15 "The Valley's CW"
Wesson's Signs
Williams Cleaners
WPI- General Contractors
Yellowbook

MEDICAL

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama
Brentwood Retirement Community
ECM
Express Med
Garrett Chiropractic
Helen Keller Hospital
Massey Drugs
Milner Rushing Drugs
North Alabama Bone and Joint Clinic
Renaissance Eye Care
Renaissance Imaging
Singing River Dentistry

AUTOMOTIVE

Bentley Chevrolet
Jerry Damson
Meineke Car Care
Ray Miller Buick-GMC
Simpson's Collision Repair
University Toyota

HOTEL

Comfort Suites
Hampton Inn and Suites (Downtown)
Key West Inn
Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
Residence Inn

RESTAURANTS/GROCERY

Big Star
Blue Coast Burrito
Bojangle's
Buffalo Wild Wings
Coca-Cola
Domino's Pizza
Five Guys
Frostbite
Jimmy John's
Legend's Steakhouse
Lenny's Sub Shop
Krispy Kreme
Olive Garden
Ricatoni's
Rosie's Cantina
Sbarro Italian Cooking
Sodexo
Texas Roadhouse

FINANCIAL

Alfa Insurance
Daniel Creel
Chad Jenkins
CB&S Bank
First Metro
Hunter Benefits Group Inc.
Lyons HR
Listerhill Credit Union
Progress Bank
Raymond James
SunTrust
TVA Community Credit Union
State Farm
Agent Bill Alexander
Agent Steve Pierce



2015 FALL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

CROSS COUNTRY

| Date | Opponent | Location |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 9/5/2015 | Sewanee Invitational | Sewanee, Tenn. |
| 9/12/2015 | Earl Jacoby/UAH Charger Invitational | Huntsville, Ala. |
| 9/26/2015 | Rhodes College Invitational | Memphis, Tenn. |
| 10/9/2015 | Watson Ford Invitational | Clinton, Miss. |
| 10/24/2015 | Gulf South Conference Championships | Danville, Ala. |
| 11/7/2015 | NCAA Division II South Regional | Tampa, Fla. |

FOOTBALL

| Date | Time | Opponent | Location |
|------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9/6/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Miles | Birmingham, Ala. (Legion Field) |
| 9/12/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Mississippi College | HOME |
| 9/26/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Florida Tech | HOME |
| 10/3/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Valdosta State | Valdosta, Ga. |
| 10/10/2015 | 3:00 p.m. | Western Oregon | Monmouth, Ore. |
| 10/17/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | UNC Pembroke | HOME Homecoming |
| 10/24/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | West Georgia | Carrollton, Ga. |
| 10/31/2015 | 1:30 p.m. | Delta State | HOME |
| 11/7/2015 | 12:30 p.m. | Shorter | Rome, Ga. |
| 11/14/2015 | 1:30 p.m. | West Alabama | HOME Preview Day |

SOCcer

| Date | Time | Opponent | Location |
|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 9/3/2015 | 3:00 p.m. | McKendree | Lebanon, Ill. |
| 9/5/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Belmont Abbey | HOME |
| 9/11/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Nova Southeastern | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. |
| 9/13/2015 | 11:00 am | Palm Beach Atlantic | West Palm Beach, Fla. |
| 9/17/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | UAH | HOME |
| 9/20/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Lee | HOME |
| 9/23/2015 | 4:00 p.m. | Shorter | Rome, Ga. |
| 9/27/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Cumberland | HOME |
| 10/2/2015 | 5:00 p.m. | Valdosta State | Valdosta, Ga. |
| 10/4/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | West Georgia | HOME |
| 10/8/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Spring Hill | HOME |
| 10/11/2015 | 12:30 p.m. | West Florida | Pensacola, Fla. |
| 10/16/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Christian Brothers | HOME |
| 10/20/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Union | Jackson, Tenn. |
| 10/25/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | West Alabama | Livingston, Ala. |
| 10/30/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Mississippi College | Clinton, Miss. |
| 11/1/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Delta State | HOME |

VOLLEYBALL

| Date | Time | Opponent | Location |
|---|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| TONY BANNER INVITATIONAL | | | |
| 9/4/2015 | 9:00 a.m. (EST) | Indianapolis | Clarion, Pa. |
| 9/4/2015 | 3:00 p.m. (EST) | Ashland | Clarion, Pa. |
| 9/5/2015 | 11:00 a.m. (EST) | Clarion | Clarion, Pa. |
| 9/5/2015 | 3:00 p.m. (EST) | Hillsdale College | Clarion, Pa. |
| UNA VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC | | | |
| 9/11/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Kentucky Wesleyan | HOME |
| 9/11/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Montevallo | HOME |
| 9/12/2015 | 1:30 p.m. | Southern Wesleyan | HOME |
| 9/12/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | Quincy | HOME |
| 9/15/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | West Alabama | Livingston, Ala. |
| 9/18/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Shorter | HOME |
| 9/19/2015 | 2:00 p.m. | Lee | HOME |
| 9/25/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Union | Jackson, Tenn. |
| 9/26/2015 | 1:00 p.m. | Christian Brothers | Memphis, Tenn. |
| 9/29/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | West Georgia | HOME |
| 10/1/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | UAH | Huntsville, Ala. |
| 10/3/2015 | 2:00 p.m. | Mississippi College | Clinton, Miss. |
| 10/9/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Valdosta State | HOME |
| 10/10/2015 | 2:00 p.m. | West Florida | HOME |
| 10/13/2015 | 6:00 p.m. | West Alabama | HOME |
| GSC/SSC CROSSOVER | | | |
| 10/16/2015 | TBA | TBA | Carrollton, Ga. |
| 10/17/2015 | TBA | TBA | Carrollton, Ga. |
| 10/20/2015 | 7:00 p.m. (EST) | West Georgia | Carrollton, Ga. |
| 10/23/2015 | 7:00 p.m. (EST) | Lee | Cleveland, Tenn. |
| 10/24/2015 | 2:00 p.m. (EST) | Shorter | Rome, Ga. |
| 10/30/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Christian Brothers | HOME |
| 10/31/2015 | 2:00 p.m. | Union | HOME |
| 11/5/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | UAH | HOME |
| 11/6/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | Mississippi College | HOME |
| 11/13/2015 | 7:00 p.m. | West Florida | Pensacola, Fla. |
| 11/15/2015 | 1:00 p.m. (EST) | Valdosta State | Valdosta, Ga. |
| GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT | | | |
| 11/17/2015 | | TBA | Campus Host |
| 11/20-21/2015 | | TBA | Campus Host |
| NCAA SOUTH REGIONAL TOURNAMENT | | | |
| 12/3-5/2015 | | TBA | Campus Host |
| NCAA DIVISION II ELITE EIGHT | | | |
| 12/10-12/2015 | | TBA | Tampa, Fla. |



CLASS NOTES

19 60s

Billy Don Anderson ('61) joins five others being inducted as part of the 2015 Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame class. Mr. Anderson served in the Navy for five years after graduating from Athens. He then decided to walk on at Florence State College where he was a three-year starter at guard from 1959-1961.

Jacque Behrens ('65) has written a self-help inspirational type book, *From the Outhouse to the World: A Global Tour of the Mind and Soul.*

19 70s

Joel Collum, Jr. ('79) is a CPA with his own firm which primarily serves individuals, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations. His previous experience is with four smaller CPA firms. He and his wife have been married for 30 years and have four children and three grandchildren.

19 80s

Myra Miles ('84) Considered one of the top high school administrators in the nation, Miles served as athletic director at Hoover from 2008-2014 after serving one year as interim AD. She also taught and coached at Hoover from 2002-2007. During her tenure the school won more than 20 state championships in 10 different sports. Her first teaching/coaching assignment

was at Haleyville (1984-88), followed by stops at Brooks (1989-99), St. James (1999-2000) and Coffee (2000-02). She coached volleyball, softball, and girls' basketball, and taught physical education during her teaching/coaching career. Her volleyball team at Haleyville won the Class 4A state championship in 1987 and finished runner-up in 1985 and 1986, then her softball team won the Class 4A state title at Brooks in 1994. Her career records were 546-201 in softball, 355-152 in volleyball, and 192-124 in basketball – a total of 1,062 prep wins in the three sports. Miles served on the AHSAA Central Board of Control from 2012-14, was president of the AHSADCA (2013-14) and an officer for five years. She has been active in working with special needs students and Special Olympics and helps sponsor a fishing trip for special needs children in Eutaw annually. Miles is a graduate of Bradshaw (1979) in Florence and the University of North Alabama (1984). She also attended Freed-Hardeman College.

Jan Ingle ('85) was the recipient of the 2015 Book of Golden Deeds Award. Jan serves as a United Way of Northwest Alabama trustee and actively engages in supporting many local nonprofits. In particular, Jan enjoys children-oriented non-profits, as she also serves Mary Ellen's Circle, a network of women who support the needs of children in foster homes. Jan serves on the UNA Alumni Executive Board.

Tracy Doughty ('97) received his undergraduate degree in nursing from the University before pursuing two post graduate degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham: a master's degree in Health Administration in 2007 and a master's degree in quality and outcomes management in health systems in 2004. Mr. Doughty has served in many roles in the health care field,

Mark A. Sanderson ('86) Student Government Association President and Turris Fidelis Award winner, formerly of Hamilton, Ala., currently resides in the state of Virginia. Sanderson, a former lawyer and Assistant District Attorney in Colbert County, Ala., retired from the practice of law in 1996. Since 2000, Mark has worked full time in the music entertainment industry as a professional singer, musician, songwriter, and recording artist. An article appeared in a 2002 edition of UNA Magazine about his studio album, "Songs From the Heart."

including Vice President of Emergency & Trauma services and the hospital's Physician Network. He also served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Reserves from 2001-2007, and is active in many local and regional organizations. Most recently, Mr. Doughty has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Operations at Huntsville Hospital, where he began his career in 1998 as a surgical/trauma nurse.

20 00s

Ryan A. Moore ('00) recently joined Florence's People's Trust Bank as First Vice President of Business and Community Banking. He also currently serves on the board of directors for United Way and is a board member of the UNA Alumni Association.

Matthew Schmitz ('00 & '09) was recently named Vice President of Intrepid, an employee-owned Huntsville-based small business. Mr. Schmitz received both his undergraduate and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University and became employed with Intrepid in 2012 as the Director of Business Development. Schmitz is the current Program Manager of the Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance Contract (SETAC) and oversees overall contract management and task order execution for the \$900 million contract. Prior to joining Intrepid, Schmitz worked in business development at Wyle, supporting capture management and proposal efforts.

Chris Burrell ('02) is the founder and lead attorney of The C. Burrell Law Group, LLC, a boutique firm in Birmingham. He and his wife, Robin make their home in Birmingham. Chris is the President of the Greater Birmingham Alumni Club.

Casey Tate ('02, '04 & '07) is Assistant Principal at East Lawrence High School in Lawrence County, Ala. He was chosen Lawrence County Teacher of the Year in 2014 and has had several instructional blogs featured by the Alabama Best Practices Center. He and his wife Whitney now reside in Rogersville.

Sonia Robinson ('03 & '10) is an award-winning public relations professional currently serving as Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Appleton Learning. She is part of a nationally recognized team that provides talent management and workforce solutions to P-12 public school districts. She oversees sales, strategy, business development, and public relations. A Huntsville, Ala., native, Robinson joined Crestwood Medical Center upon graduating. She served as Marketing Coordinator for nearly eight years. In

2011, she joined Appleton Learning. During her tenure there, she has spearheaded a successful company rebrand. Robinson is a past President of the North Alabama Chapter of the Public Relations Council of Alabama. She was awarded accreditation in public relations, APR, in June 2011 and just last year was recognized by the Southern Public Relations Federation as a Senior Practitioner, a status

that honors veteran public relations practitioners.

Jason Parks ('04) is the founding minister of Refuge Church. Parks has offered invocations for several government assemblies, including Madison City Council, Huntsville City Council, Madison County Commission, and last year for the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Parks currently serves on the Calhoun Community College EMS Advisory Board and as a faculty member for Huntsville Bible College. Mr. Parks graduated from the University of North Alabama in 2004 before receiving his MBA from Liberty University and his master's in divinity from Rockbridge Seminary.

Katrina Brown ('04 & '05) is a civil staff attorney at Birmingham Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers program.

Amy Tucker Clark ('05) is a family medicine physician in Muscle Shoals. She and her husband Greg have just moved back to Florence and are the parents of a daughter, Bella.

Anthony Sparks ('05 & '06) is the executive director at YMCA Youth Center of Greater Birmingham and is a Certified Life Coach. He and his wife **Ashley Smith Sparks ('08)** live in Hoover and have a son, Aiden. Anthony has written a self-help book, #BETTER—7 Keys to Living a Life of Progression, Not Perfection.

Josh Terry ('06) is an anesthesiologist at Keller Hospital.

UNA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB DINNER AND AUCTION



Jim Traglia, Bobby Champagne and Johnny Simpson '90



Josh Willingham and Johnny Simpson '90



Pre-event mixer and auction



UNA Cheerleaders welcome fans



CLASS NOTES

David Williamson ('07) is the assistant controller of Foreign Ops Revenue at the Drummond Company. He makes his home in Birmingham and is married to **Karen Allen Williamson ('08)**. They have two sons.

Erin Robertson ('09) graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Arts with an emphasis in Public Relations. She is currently employed by HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology as an Advancement Database Manager and lives in Madison, Ala.

2010s

Mason G. Kirkland ('11) is a program analyst who applies over three years of effective planning, contracting, analytical, acquisition, organizational, logistical, mentoring, technical, supervisory, and data research experience to challenging Department of Defense and industry settings. The Grant, Ala., native joined the defense industry in 2012 with Quantech Services, Inc., supporting the Missile Defense in Huntsville.

Samuel Thigpen ('11) is a physical education teacher at Alabaster City Schools. He and his wife **Lindsay Rogers Thigpen ('12)** work at Meadow View Elementary School.

Traci Boutwell ('13) graduate of UNA's master's program in Business Administration, is a contract employee for the Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala.,

where she is charged with providing graphics and communication support for external publications, employee communications, and social media. She is dual-hatted, working for both the AMCOM Public Affairs Office and the AMCOM Command Initiatives Group.

Meggin Major ('13) received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She is currently a travel nurse with Cross Country Travel Corps.

Will Riley ('13) is the lead recruiter and brand strategist at FireSeeds. He lives in Birmingham, Ala.

NON GRADUATE

Elaine Ballew is executive director of the Madison Chamber of Commerce. She has served more than 17 years as an asset manager for privately and publicly held companies and is a frequent speaker for business leaders and real estate professionals. She is the 2015 president of the Apartment Association of North Alabama and serves on the state board. She was born into a military family and attended the University of North Alabama and Athens State University. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in marketing.

Josh Chaney has joined the Naples office of Downing-Frye Realty, Inc. Originally from Florence, Alabama, he moved to Naples, Fla., in 2010. Mr. Chaney has an associate degree in business from the University of North Alabama. Previously, he was a sales manager/general manager for Comcast in Southwest Florida.

COLOR RUN



The UNA Color Run is one of the UNA Athletic department's most anticipated events each Spring. With over 500 participants, this family friendly event provides a 5K and 1 Mile course where runners and walkers are showered with purple and gold color along the way. To register for the UNA Color Run, visit alumni.una.edu/colorrun.



IN MEMORY

FACULTY

Florine K. Rasch of Auburn, Ala., formerly of Florence, passed away July 20, 2015, at East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, Ala. She was a member of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Florence, Treasurer of the Salvation Army of Florence, Historical Society Board, Friends of the Library, and Community Bible Study. She began her career in Florence as a chemist with TVA and then taught at the University of North Alabama for 35 years. She retired as the head of the Home Economics Department.

1950s

By-Product Corporation where he was plant accountant for 34 years. When Drummond Coal Company purchased ABC, he was offered early retirement and a few months later went to work as staff accountant at Avis Rent-A-Car until 2004.

Childhood Education from the University of Tennessee. She directed a day care in Kalamazoo, Mich. During her career she taught at Central Missouri State University, Kansas State University, and Iowa State University. She was a professor of education at John Wood Community College from 1991 until her retirement in 2012.

1960s

Ruby Nicholson ('62 & '67) of Scottsboro, Ala., graduated from Phil Campbell High School before attending Florence State College, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree. She taught fifth grade in Tuscumbia City School System and obtained her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from UNA. Dr. Nicholson accepted a Fellowship from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and with great determination she completed her Doctorate Degree in Elementary Education by the time she was 30 years old. She accepted a professor position at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala., where she taught for 28 years. She supervised student teachers, taught masters level graduate classes, and served as an advisor. After he was discharged from the army, he attended the Florence State Teachers College on an athletic scholarship for football and baseball.

YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

Dwight Cooper attended both the College of Lake County and University of North Alabama. He worked for Abbott Laboratories for over 20 years before retiring in 2009.

Betty Stone Keown

Davidson attended Florence State Teachers College and moved to Mobile, Ala., where she worked for the Mobile Chamber of Commerce. After moving to Decatur, she became the first female Moderator for the North Alabama Presbytery and also served as church treasurer. Mrs. Davidson was also very active in the community, including the Junior Service League of Decatur, where she served as President and committee chair.

J. David Sessions attended Delta State University immediately following high school where he was a member of the football team and graduated with

Carolyn Terry ('48) attended Florence State Teachers College. Mrs. Terry was a lifelong educator, teaching in the Lauderdale County and City of Florence School systems. Even in retirement, she remained dedicated to the teaching of life lessons, new ideas, and meeting new people.

Robert McKinley "Bob" Mitchell, Jr. ('49) served proudly in the Eighth Air Force 384th Bomb Group in England, completing over 35 missions as a crew chief and ball turret gunner on B-17 bombers.

His decorations included the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and European Theater Medal with five Bronze Stars. After the war, Mr. Mitchell completed his education with degrees from the University of North Alabama and Vanderbilt University. His broad career included positions as high school teacher, Boy Scout Executive, hospital

administrator, construction estimator and manager, and insurance safety engineer. He was active in Veterans' organizations, an Eagle Scout and scout master, and a squadron commander in the Civil Air Patrol.

Osburne Holt ('51) served in the U.S. Army from 1945-1947 before returning to Birmingham, Ala. There, he attended Howard College for two years. Mr. Holt and his wife then moved to Florence, Ala., where he enrolled at Florence State Teachers College and received a

Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in December of 1951. After graduating, he went on to work for Alabama

Childhood Education from the University of Tennessee. She directed a day care in Kalamazoo, Mich. During her career she taught at Central Missouri State University, Kansas State University, and Iowa State University. She was a professor of education at John Wood Community College from 1991 until her retirement in 2012.

Carolyn Cox Warren ('68) graduated from the University in 1968 before receiving her Master's degree in Early



IN MEMORY

a Bachelor's degree in Education. He received advanced degrees from the University of North Alabama and Southeastern Louisiana University. Mr. Sessions was an educator for 40 years. His early years were spent coaching football at collegiate and high school levels before moving to Saint Tammany Parish in 1985 where he continued to be a teacher, coach, and administrator.

Cary Allen Findlay attended Florence State College and the University of Alabama. He served in the U.S. Army stationed with the Headquarters Division in Berlin during the Berlin Air Lift. He was an active member of the Berlin U.S. Military Veterans Association and attended reunions in Berlin as delegate. Mr. Findlay owned Cary A. Findlay and Associates Insurance Agency and was recognized consistently as a member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

Annie Rita Ashburn attended Florence State Teachers College, receiving her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She worked many years as a teacher and secretary.

John David Futch, Jr., attended Florence State Teachers College and was the founder and owner of The Music Store, Inc., in Columbia, S.C.

Jean Martin was a graduate of Coffee High School and Florence State University. Mrs. Martin was the former owner of WABT Radio Station in Tuskegee. After meeting her husband, they moved to Florence, Ala., where they were the owners of

Northwood Building, Inc., M & S Mini Storage, and partners in Hermitage Oaks, Hermitage Place, and Hermitage Knoll Apartment Complexes.

Charles E. Carmichael, Jr., served in the Air Force during World War II. Upon his return to Alabama, he attended Florence State Teacher's College and graduated from the University of Alabama. He practiced law in Tuscumbia for 66 years, achieving distinction as one of the longest practicing attorneys in the State of Alabama.



ALUMNI PRIDE



Deborah Shaw '82, Carol Lyles '70, Ken Kitts, Keke Greer '15, Barbie Terry, Nick Lang. Back row: Ron Wright '70, Mac Buttram '69, Dan Hendricks, David Shields, Carmen Burkhalter, Richard Cater '67, Billy Joe Camp '60, Clinton Carter '00, Phil Rivers, Johnette Davis at Higher Education Banquet in Montgomery.



Billy Joe Camp '60, President Ken Kitts, Dean Carmen Burkhalter in Montgomery



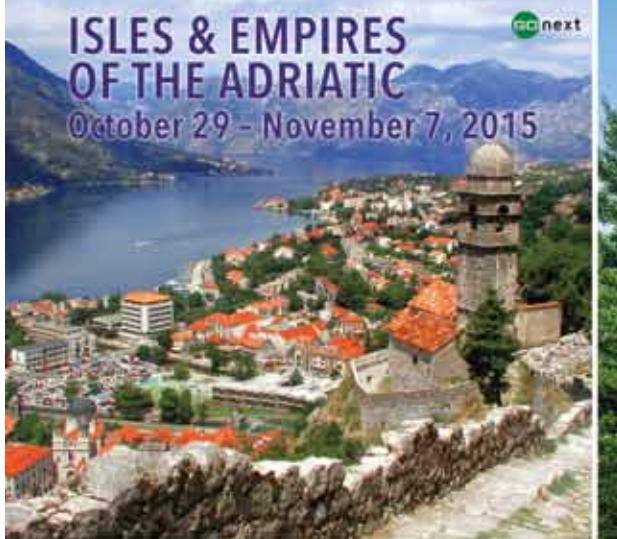
Patty Byers '80, Mike Thorn '82, Carol Lyles '70 & Mike Byers '79 in Jackson, Miss.



Alysia and Preston Byers '03 in Jackson, Miss.



David Shields and Josh McFall '07 in Montgomery



ISLES & EMPIRES OF THE ADRIATIC
October 29 - November 7, 2015

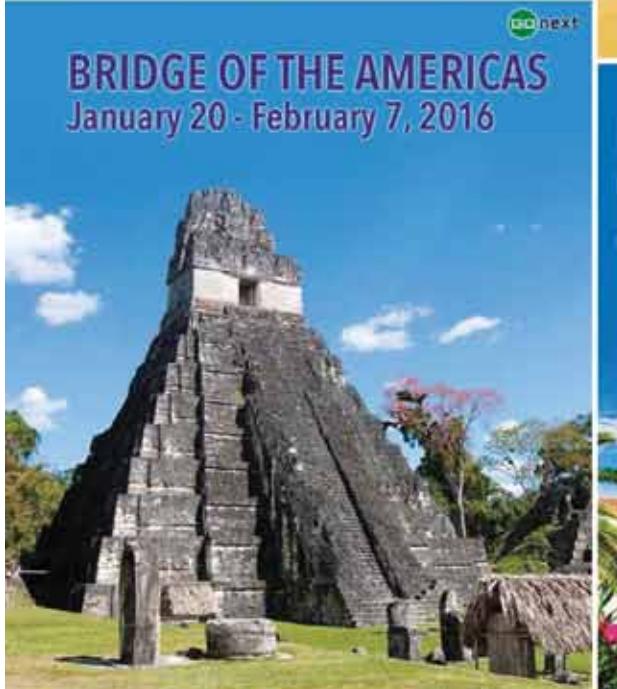


PASSAGE OF LEWIS & CLARK
May 7-15, 2016

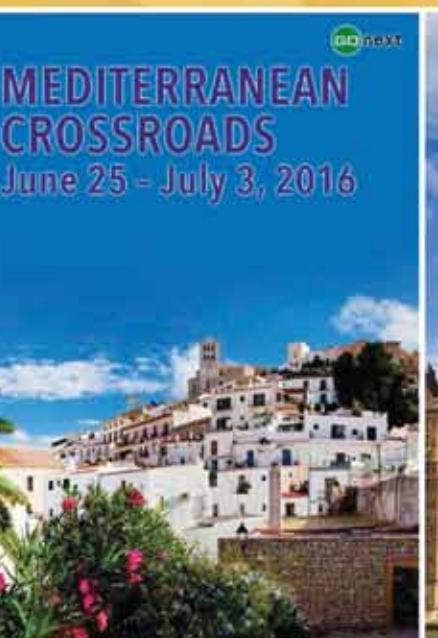


SHADES OF IRELAND
March 15 - 24, 2017

Travel with the Lions!
View our upcoming trips at alumni.una.edu/travel



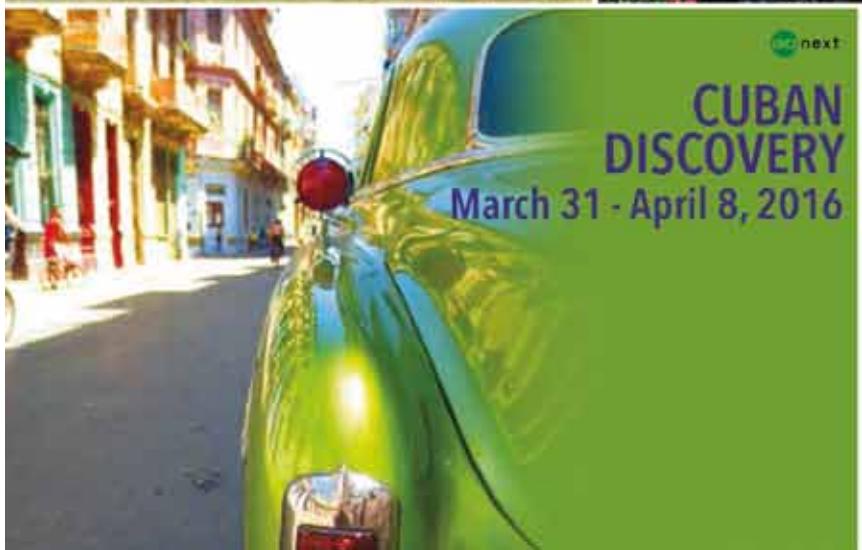
BRIDGE OF THE AMERICAS
January 20 - February 7, 2016



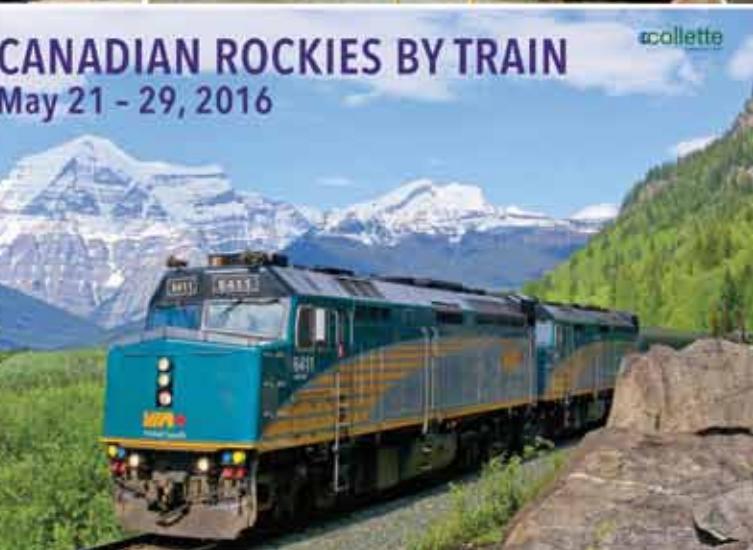
MEDITERRANEAN CROSSROADS
June 25 - July 3, 2016



BRITISH LANDSCAPES
June 30 - July 9, 2016



CUBAN DISCOVERY
March 31 - April 8, 2016



CANADIAN ROCKIES BY TRAIN
May 21 - 29, 2016

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ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATE

Name (include maiden name if applicable) _____

Graduation Year(s) and Major(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home telephone _____ E-mail address _____

Business telephone _____ Position _____

I want to get involved with UNA alumni in my area...

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunions |

Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion or completed another degree? Your UNA classmates would like to know more about it! Send us your news and we will publish it in a subsequent issue of the *UNA Alumni Magazine*. Please complete the form and send it to the Office of Alumni Relations, UNA Box 5047, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or e-mail to alumni1@una.edu.

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*tax deductible as per IRS regulations

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